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March 28, 2012

The Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
The Honorable Robert McDowell
The Honorable Mignon Clyburn
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Big Bend Telephone Company Petition for Waiver, WC Docket No. 10-90, GN Docket No. 09-51, WC Docket No. 07-135, WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket No. 01-92, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No 03-109, WT Docket No. 10-208

Ex Parte Letter

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

This letter is in support of the current efforts of Big Bend Telephone Company (BBTC) to obtain a waiver of the November 18, 2011 Universal Service Order. BBTC provides communication services to half of the U. S. – Mexico border in Texas. Any lack or disruption of service in this area would negatively impact law enforcement's ability to communicate and share critical information related to public safety and homeland security. A disruption of service would also negatively impact our citizens living in these border areas and their ability to contact law enforcement. Additionally, operations of schools and higher education institutions, hospitals, libraries, banks, the prison operations of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and other public services could incur adverse effects. Service interruption would also likely negatively impact federal employee's ability to communicate and share information critical to the management of that federal facility, as BBTC service area also includes Big Bend National Park. The Texas Department of Public Safety requests that the Federal Communications Commission thoughtfully consider the security impact of this area in regard to this waiver request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steven C. McCraw' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steven C. McCraw
Director